



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WEEVIL QUARANTINE ESTABLISHED IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY *Exotic Pest Can Damage Crops, Plants*

A 4-square-mile quarantine area has been established for the Diaprepes Root Weevil in the University City area of San Diego County.

The quarantine was set by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). All nursery stock, plants, plant parts and products, soil, sand, gravel, growing mediums, and dying or dead plant material are subject to restrictions on movement in and out of the quarantine area. Similar quarantines were established in 2005 in Orange and Los Angeles counties.

Homeowners are asked to contact a CDFA Hotline at 1-800-491-1899 before moving any of the above items out of the quarantine areas. Green waste from the quarantine area can be disposed at the Miramar Landfill Green Waste Disposal site.

The public's cooperation in implementing this quarantine is greatly appreciated. Left unchecked, this large weevil could significantly damage California agriculture, threatening more than 270 species of plants, including citrus and ornamental plants.

The San Diego County office of Agriculture, Weights & Measures (AWM) is working with the CDFA in evaluating the best options for management of this weevil population. Eradication may take three to five years.

Diaprepes root weevils, native to the Caribbean, generally infest Florida and part of Texas. Adult weevils feed on plant leaves while larvae feed on plant roots. Adults are about three-quarters of an inch in length, with markings on their backs ranging from black and orange to cream colored.

The public can help by reporting suspicious bugs on the **CDFA PEST HOTLINE at 1-800-491-1899** or 619-698-1046. For more information, visit AWM's web site, www.sdcawm.org.

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